

TO THE CLERK OF THE FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Defendant HOBBY LOBBY STORES, INC. ("Hobby Lobby") hereby removes this action from the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Orange to the United States District Court for the Central District of California This removal is based on diversity of citizenship pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1332(d), 1367, 1441 and 1453.

BACKGROUND

- 1. On February 18, 2014, Plaintiffs Jeremy Fardig, Jeremy Wright, and Christian Bolin ("Plaintiffs") filed a Complaint against Hobby Lobby, entitled "Jeremy Fardig, Jeremy Wright, and Christian Bolin, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc., and Does 1 through 100, inclusive." in the Superior Court of California, for the County of Orange, Case No. 30-2014-00705589-CU-OE-CJC (hereinafter, the "Complaint"). True and correct copies of Plaintiffs' Complaint and Summons are attached hereto as Exhibit A to the Declaration of Saba S. Shatara. The allegations of the Complaint are incorporated by reference in this Notice of Removal without admitting them.
- 2. Plaintiffs filed the Complaint as a putative class action pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 382. Complaint ¶ 26. Plaintiffs, former employees of Hobby Lobby, seek to represent the following classes of Hobby Lobby's current and former California employees (collectively, the "Putative Class"):
 - a. Class One: All persons who are and/or were employed as non-exempt managerial employees by Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc., in one or more California Hobby Lobby retail stores between February 6, 2010 and the present.
 - b. Class Two: All persons who are and/or were employed as non-exempt retail employees by Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc., in one or more

SF01/936625.1

1	California Hobby Lobby retail stores between February 6, 2010 and
2	the present.
3	Complaint, ¶ 24.
4	3. The Complaint alleges five causes of action: (1) failure to provide
5	meal and rest periods (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7 and 512); (2) unlawful failure to pay
6	wages (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 200-204, 510, 1194, and 1198); (3) failure to provide
7	accurate itemized wage statements (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226 and 1174); (4) unfair
8	business practices under the Unfair Competition Law (Cal. Bus. and Prof. Code
9	§§17200 et seq.); and (5) violations of the Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA")
10	(Cal. Lab. Code. §§ 2699 et seq.).
11	4. This lawsuit is a civil action within the meaning of Acts of Congress
12	relating to removal of class actions. See 28 U.S.C. § 1453. The Complaint, framed
13	as a putative class action seeking recovery for alleged wage and hour violations
14	under California law, is a class action as defined by 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(d)(1)(B) and
15	1453. ¹
16	5. No other proceedings have occurred in this action.
17	<u>TIMELINESS OF REMOVAL</u>
18	6. Plaintiffs served a copy of their Summons and Complaint on Hobby
19	Lobby's registered agent for service of process on March 11, 2014. ² This Notice of
20	Removal is timely as it is filed within thirty days of service of the Complaint. 28
21	U.S.C. § 1446(b).
22	<u>VENUE</u>
23	7. The Central District of California, Southern Division embraces the
24	County of Orange, where the action was pending prior to the filing of this Notice of
25	
26	Defendant neither concedes nor waives its right to contest Plaintiffs' allegation that the lawsuit may properly proceed as a class action.
27 28	² See Declaration of Saba S. Shatara ("Shatara Decl."), ¶ 2.

DRINKER BIDDLE &
REATH LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
SAN FRANCISCO

SF01/936625.1

- Removal. Accordingly, venue is proper in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, Southern Division. 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a); C.D. Cal. General
- 3 Order 349.

JURISDICTION PURSUANT TO THE CLASS ACTION FAIRNESS ACT

- 8. Hobby Lobby removes this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d), the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 ("CAFA"). CAFA provides the Federal District Courts with original jurisdiction over civil class action lawsuits filed under federal or state law in which any member of a class of plaintiffs is a citizen of a state different from any defendant, and where the matter in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2). The exceptions set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(3)-(5) are not applicable here.
- 9. This action was initially brought pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 on behalf of a Putative Class, the size of which is unknown to Plaintiff. Complaint ¶ 26. However, Plaintiffs claim that the number of individuals in the Putative Class is, "at least, in the hundreds of individuals" and, in fact, is so numerous that the individual joinder of all members is "impracticable, if not impossible." *Id.*
- 10. This Court has original jurisdiction over this case under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2) because this case is filed as a civil class action, the amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and at least one member (if not all) of the putative class of plaintiffs is a citizen of a state different from Hobby Lobby.

DIVERSITY OF CITIZENSHIP EXISTS AMONG THE PARTIES

11. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1453(b), "[a] class action may be removed to a district court of the United States in accordance with section 1446 (except that the one-year limitation under section 1446 (b) shall not apply), without regard to whether any defendant is a citizen of the State in which the action is brought, except that such action may be removed by any defendant without the consent of all

SF01/936625.1

defendants." CAFA's diversity requirement is satisfied when any member of a class of citizens is a citizen of a State different from any defendant. 28 U.S.C. § 1332 (d)(2); *United Steel, Paper & Forestry, Rubber, Mfg., Energy, Allied Indus. & Serv. Workers Int'l Union, AFL-CIO, CLC v. Shell Oil Co.*, 602 F.3d 1087, 1090-91 (9th Cir. 2010) (CAFA provides original diversity jurisdiction for class actions meeting the minimal diversity requirements of 28 U.S.C.§ 1332 (d)(2)).

- been a resident of Riverside County, California at all times relevant to this matter.

 Based on payroll and human resources records maintained by Hobby Lobby, Mr.

 Fardig's last known address is 861 Ranch Vista Road, Corona, CA 92879.³

 Moreover, based on publicly available information and records, Mr. Fardig continues to reside at this address and has been a resident of California since at least November 1995. *See* Ex. 1 (LexisNexis Public Records Report) to Request for Judicial Notice in support of Removal.
- 13. Hobby Lobby is informed and believes that plaintiff Jeremy Wright has been a resident of San Bernardino County, California at all times relevant to this matter. Based on payroll and human resources records maintained by Hobby Lobby, Mr. Wright's last known address is 1216 North Vallejo Way, Upland, CA 91786. Moreover, based on publicly available information and records, Mr. Wright continues to reside at this address and has been a resident of California since at least April 1994. *See* Ex. 2 (LexisNexis Public Records Report) to Request for Judicial Notice in support of Removal.
- 14. Hobby Lobby is informed and believes that plaintiff Christian Bolin has been a resident of Riverside County, California at all times relevant to this matter. Based on payroll and human resources records maintained by Hobby Lobby,

SF01/936625.1

- 4 -

³ Declaration of Teresa Wiley ("Wiley Decl."), ¶ 4.

⁴ *Id*. ¶ 5.

- 1 Mr. Bolin's last known address is 7187 Idyllwild Lane, Riverside, CA 92503.5
- 2 Moreover, based on publicly available information and records, Mr. Bolin continues
- 3 to reside at this address and has been a resident of California since at least August
- 4 | 1994. See Ex. 3 (LexisNexis Public Records Report) to Request for Judicial Notice
- 5 | in support of Removal.

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

- 15. For diversity purposes, a person is a "citizen" of the state in which he or she is domiciled. *See Kantor v. Wellesley Galleries, Ltd.*, 704 F.2d 1088, 1090 (9th Cir. 1983). Therefore, all three Plaintiffs are citizens of California.
- 16. Plaintiffs allege the Putative Classes consists of all non-exempt managerial and retail employees employed at one or more California Hobby Lobby retail stores during the relevant time periods in California. Complaint ¶ 24.
- 17. A corporation is "deemed a citizen of any State by which it has been incorporated and of the State where it has its principal place of business." 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c). Defendant Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Oklahoma. Hobby Lobby's principal offices are located at 7707 SW 44th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Hobby Lobby's officers direct, control, and coordinate company business from these headquarters. Thus, Hobby Lobby is a citizen of the State of Oklahoma for purposes of diversity jurisdiction because its "principal place of business" its "nerve center" is located in Oklahoma City. *See Hertz Corp. v. Friend*, 599 U.S. 77, 130 S. Ct. 1181, 1186 (2010).
- 18. Here, diversity of citizenship is met because the Plaintiffs and at least some of the Putative Class members are citizens of California while the Hobby

SF01/936625.1

- 5 -

⁵ Wiley Decl., ¶ 6.

⁶ *Id*. ¶ 2.

⁷ *Id*.

⁸ See id.

Lobby is a citizen of Oklahoma. See 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A), *United Steel, supra,* 602 F.3d at 1090-91.

THE AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY EXCEEDS \$5 MILLION9

19. The Complaint is silent as to the total amount of monetary relief sought. The failure of Plaintiff to specify the total amount of monetary relief sought, however, does not deprive this Court of jurisdiction nor bar removal. *See Levine v. BIC USA, Inc.*, No. 07cv1096-LAB (RBB), 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 60952, at *7-8 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 19, 2007).

A Preponderance of the Evidence Standard Applies

whether the amount in controversy exceeds \$5 million. *Rodriguez v. AT&T Mobility Services LLC*, No. 13-56149, 2013 WL 4516757, at *7 (9th Cir. Aug. 27, 2013); *see also, Rea v. Michaels Stores Inc.*, No. 14–55008, 2014 WL 607322, at *3-4 (9th Cir. Feb. 18, 2014) (reversing order remanding action and reaffirming an earlier Ninth Circuit holding that a preponderance of the evidence standard—and not the more burdensome legal certainty standard—applies to CAFA removals). The preponderance-of-the-evidence standard means only that a defendant must provide evidence establishing that it is "more likely than not" that the amount in controversy is met. *Sanchez v. Monumental Life Ins. Co.*, 102 F.3d 398, 404 (9th Cir. 1996). This standard is not "daunting," and courts recognize that a removing defendant is not obligated to "research, state, and prove the plaintiff's claims for damages." *Korn v. Polo Ralph Lauren Corp.*, 536 F. Supp. 2d 1199 (E.D. Cal. 2008) (*citing McCraw v. Lyons*, 863 F. Supp. 430, 434 (W.D. Ky 1994)). In measuring the amount in

- 6 -

⁹ This Notice of Removal discusses the nature and amount of damages placed at issue by Plaintiffs' Complaint. Hobby Lobby's reference to specific damage amounts and related analysis are provided solely for the purpose of establishing that the amount in controversy is more likely than not in excess of the jurisdictional minimum. Nothing contained herein shall constitute an admission of liability or a suggestion that Plaintiffs or any Putative Class member could or will recover damages from Hobby Lobby, or that the Putative Class is appropriate for certification.

controversy, the ultimate inquiry is what amount is put "in controversy" by the plaintiff's complaint, not what a defendant will actually owe. *Id.*

Under Any Burden of Proof, this Notice of Removal and Removal Establishes that the Amount in Controversy Exceeds \$5 Million

- 21. Without admitting any allegations in the Complaint, and without conceding that Plaintiff's definition of the putative class is proper or that class certification is appropriate, Hobby Lobby states that Plaintiffs have alleged claims which place an amount in excess of \$5 million in controversy. The assertions of Hobby Lobby herein are limited to its preliminary understanding of Plaintiffs' claims and data currently available to Hobby Lobby.
- 22. According to Plaintiffs, the size of the putative class is unknown but is so numerous that the individual joinder of all members is "impractical, if not impossible." Complaint ¶ 26. As set forth above, Plaintiffs propose several classes/subclasses. The first includes "[a]ll persons who are and/or were employed as non-exempt managerial employees by Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc., in one or more California Hobby Lobby retail stores between February 6, 2010 and the present." Complaint ¶ 24. Based on its electronic employee records, Hobby Lobby asserts that this putative class would include 65 individuals. The second putative subclass consists of "[a]ll persons who are and/or were employed as non-exempt retail employee by Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc., in one or more California Hobby Lobby retails stores between February 6, 2010 and the present." Complaint ¶ 24. Based on its electronic employee records, Hobby Lobby asserts that this putative class would include 2,399 individuals. 12

 $^{^{10}}$ Declaration of Allana Stephens ("Stephens Decl."), \P 4.

Defendant notes that the Plaintiffs' proposed class includes past, current, and future employees. As such, both the size of the putative class and the amount in controversy will continue to expand as the case is litigated. As a result, the amount in controversy is actually greater than the amount set forth in this Notice of Removal because there will be more individuals in the putative class than accounted for in the calculations herein.

¹² Stephens Decl., ¶ 4.

- 23. Plaintiffs allege that Hobby Lobby failed to provide Plaintiffs and the putative class members meal and rest periods; failed to pay minimum and overtime wages; failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements; engaged in unfair business practices in violation of California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200-17208; and engaged in violations of California Labor Code §§ 2669, et seq. Complaint, passim.
- 24. In determining whether the jurisdictional amount in controversy has been satisfied, courts may consider the maximum statutory penalty available. *Chabner v. United of Omaha Life Ins. Co.*, 225 F.3d 1042, 1046 n. 3 (9th Cir. 2000). Plaintiffs specifically request penalties permitted by Labor Code §§ 203, 226, and 1194. In measuring the amount in controversy, the ultimate inquiry is what amount is put "in controversy" by the plaintiff's complaint, not what a defendant will actually owe. *Id.*

Minimum Wage Claim

25. Plaintiffs' claim for purportedly unpaid straight-time (i.e., minimum wages) places \$497,890.32 in controversy. Hobby Lobby's calculation of straight-time wages is based on an estimated one hour per employee per pay period, ¹³ at an estimated hourly wage of \$10.08 for non-managerial class members and \$18.95 for managerial putative class members, ¹⁴ throughout the statutory period. Hobby Lobby further based its calculation as to this claim on an estimate of its workforce at any given time during the three-year period. ¹⁵ Based on these figures, the amount placed

¹³ Stephens Decl., ¶ 4 (providing that Hobby Lobby had bi-weekly pay periods at all relevant times, i.e., 26 pay periods per year).

 $^{^{14}}$ See ¶ 27 infra for an explanation as to the calculation of the hourly rates used in this calculation.

Hobby Lobby based its calculation on the number of class members employed by Hobby Lobby on February 18th of each year since 2011. There were 72 non-managerial class members and one managerial class member on February 18, 2011; 519 non-managerial class members and 12 managerial class members in 2012; 1013 non-managerial class members and 19 managerial class member s in 2013; and 1532 non-managerial class members and 39 managerial class member s in 2014.

in controversy for each year (or portion thereof) by Plaintiffs' minimum wage claim is as follows:

Period	Managerial	Non-Managerial	Amount in	
	Employees	Employees	Controversy	
2/18/2011 -	1 x \$18.95 x 22	72 x \$10.08 x 22	\$16,383.62	
12/31/2011	pay periods x 1	pay periods x 1		
	hour = \$416.90	hour =		
		\$15,966.72		
2012	12 x \$18.95 x 26	519 x \$10.08 x	\$141,931.92	
	pay periods x 1	26 pay periods x		
	hour = \$5,912.40	1 hour =		
		\$136,019.52		
2013	19 x \$18.95 x 26	1013 x \$10.08 x	\$274,848.34	
	pay periods x 1	26 pay periods x		
	hour = 9,361.30	1 hour =		
		\$265,487.04	-	
2014	39 x \$18.95 x 4	1532 x \$10.08 x	\$64,726.44	
	pay periods x 1	4 pay periods x 1		
	hour = \$2,956.2	hour =		
		\$61,770.24		
Total Amount in			\$497,890.32	
Controversy				

This estimate—and particularly Hobby Lobby's application of one 26. hour of additional wages—is reasonable. First, although the highest hourly rate paid to managerial class members during the applicable three year period was \$23.86, Hobby Lobby's calculation uses the more conservative minimum hourly rate of

SF01/936625.1

-9-

\$18.95. 16 Similarly, although the highest hourly rate paid to non-managerial putative class members was \$20.90, Hobby Lobby's calculation uses the more conservative average hourly rate of \$10.08¹⁷ during the three year statute of limitations. Second, due to Hobby Lobby's growth in California during the relevant years, a sample of employees "at any given time" taken on February 18 will be more conservative than a sample taken later in the year. Third, in the Complaint Plaintiffs state that Hobby Lobby disadvantaged its workers "by electing not to sufficiently offer meal and rest periods to its California non-exempt retail employees, by not providing duty free and uninterrupted meal and rest periods to its California non-exempt managerial employees, [and] by not providing regular and/or overtime pay (as a result thereof) when due..." Complaint ¶ 5. Plaintiffs go on to say that Hobby Lobby "knowingly failed to properly compensate Plaintiffs and the Plaintiff Classes for all wages earned and due." Id. ¶ 27. Additionally, Plaintiffs allege that Hobby Lobby "refused to compensate employees for time spent undergoing mandatory security checks after employees clocked out at the end of the shift or at the beginning of a meal or rest break. To date, employees have *never* been compensated for time spent in these security checks." *Id.* ¶ 47 (emphasis added). Plaintiffs also state that Hobby Lobby "refused to compensate employees for missed breaks when security checks and/or job requirements caused the employees to receive less than 30 uninterrupted and duty-free minutes for meal breaks or 10 uninterrupted and duty-free minutes for rest breaks. Id. ¶ 48. Thus, Hobby Lobby's estimate of one hour per pay period is, if anything, too conservative. See Muniz v. Pilot Travel Ctrs., No. 07-0325, 2007 WL 1302504, at *2 (E.D. Cal. May 1, 2007) (finding that defendant need not "prove the plaintiff's claims" and assuming 100% violation rate when calculating amount in

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

 $^{^{16}}$ Stephens Decl., ¶ 5 providing that the highest hourly rate for managerial class members during the three year period was \$23.86 and the minimum hourly rate was \$18.95).

 $^{^{17}}$ Id. (providing that the highest hourly rate for retail class members during the three year period was \$20.90 and the average hourly rate was \$10.08).

1 | controversy); Helm v. Alderwoods Grp., Inc., No. 08-1184, 2008 WL 2002511, at *5

(N.D. Cal. May 7, 2008) ("[D]efendants cannot be expected to try the case

themselves for purposes of establishing jurisdiction, and then admit ... that a certain

number of ... violations did indeed occur."); Bryan v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., No. 08-

5221, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 18555, at *10 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 23, 2009) (same);

Heejin Lim v. Helio, LLC, No. 11-9183, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 12871, at *9 (C.D.

Cal. Feb. 2, 2012) ("Defendants effectively would be required to concede liability were the Court to require a stronger showing....").

Overtime Claim

27. Plaintiffs' claims for allegedly unpaid overtime wages place at least \$746,840.40 in controversy. This figure is based on an estimated one hour of overtime per pay period at an estimated overtime rate of \$15.12 for non-managerial class members and \$28.43 for managerial class members (150% of the regular hourly rates used above). Hobby Lobby further based its overtime calculation on the same estimate of its workforce described in the previous section. For the reasons explained in paragraph 27, the following estimate is reasonable:

Period Managerial		Non-Managerial	Amount in	
	Employees	Employees	Controversy	
2/18/2011 —	1 x \$28.43 x 22	72 x \$15.12 x 22	\$24,575.54	
12/31/2011 pay periods x 1		pay periods x 1	·	
	hour = \$625.46	hour =		
		\$23,950.08		
2012	12 x \$28.43 x 26	519 x \$15.12 x	\$212,899.44	
	pay periods x 1	26 pay periods x		
,	hour = \$8,870.16	1 hour =		

SF01/936625.1

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	

Period	Managerial	Non-Managerial	Amount in
	Employees	Employees	Controversy
·		\$204,029.28	
2013	19 x \$28.43 x 26	1013 x \$15.12 x	\$412,274.98
	pay periods x 1	26 pay periods x	
	hour =	1 hour =	
·	\$14,044.42	\$398,230.56	
2014 39 x \$28.43 x 4		1532 x \$15.12 x	\$97,090.44
	pay periods x 1	4 pay periods x 1	
hour = \$4,435.08		hour =	
		\$92,655.36	
Total Amount in			\$746,840.40
Controversy			

Meal and Rest Break Claim

28. In Plaintiffs' first cause of action, Plaintiffs demand meal and rest period penalties.¹⁸ Complaint ¶ 43. Hobby Lobby estimates that unpaid meal period premiums place at least \$416,780.26 in controversy. Hobby Lobby bases this figure on an hourly wage of \$10.08 for non-managerial class members and \$18.95 for managerial class members. In calculating potential meal period premium wages atissue, Hobby Lobby relied solely on the estimated number of putative class members at any given time during the 2012 (519 non-managerial members and 12 managerial members) and 2013 (1013 non-managerial members and 19 managerial member), and assumed one missed meal period per pay period.¹⁹

23

24

25

26

27

¹⁸ Under Labor Code § 226.7(b), an employer who fails to provide an employee a meal period in accordance with applicable provisions must pay the employee one hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that the meal period is not provided.

¹⁹ [(519 x \$10.08 x 26 pay periods x 1 violation)+(12 x \$18.95 x 26 pay periods x 1 - 12 -

DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
SF01/9

SAN FRANCISCO

29. Plaintiffs seek additional premium wages for each workday in which a rest period was not timely provided. Complaint ¶¶ 38-39, 43. Using the same methodology utilized to calculate the amount of meal period premiums at-issue, Hobby Lobby determined that unpaid rest period premiums total at least \$416,780.26.²⁰

30. The above methodology is both reasonable and proper (if not overly conservative): In *Jasso v. Money Mart Express, Inc.*, 2012 WL 699465, at *3, *5 n. 4 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 1, 2012), the court deemed reasonable the defendant's meal period calculation which utilized a figure of one missed meal period *per week*. Here, Hobby Lobby assumes only one missed meal period per pay period. Moreover, Plaintiffs' own allegations suggest that meal and rest periods were missed *every day* because putative class members had to undergo mandatory security checks. *See* Complaint, ¶ 40 ("[M]andatory security checks and customer service policies infringed on Plaintiffs' and putative Class Members' meal and rest breaks.") (emphasis added). Significantly, Plaintiffs state that "[a]s a result of the time spent undergoing security checks and the requirements of [Hobby Lobby's] customer services policies, employees were denied the full period for meal and/or rest breaks, in violation of applicable law." *Id*.

Waiting Time Penalties Claim

31. Under the Labor Code, employers must timely pay employees who are discharged or quit within specified time limits, otherwise, the wages of the employees shall continue as a penalty from the due date until paid, with a maximum penalty period of 30 days. Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201, 203.

violation)] + $[(1013 \times 10.08 \times 26 \text{ pay periods } \times 1 \text{ violation}) + (19 \times 18.95 \times 26 \text{ pay periods } \times 1 \text{ violation})] = $416,780.26.$

²⁰ As with the meal break calculation, an estimate of one missed rest break per pay period is reasonable in light of Plaintiffs' allegations.

Hobby Lobby has determined that at least \$666,876.00²¹ in waiting 32. time penalties are at-issue, based on 525 retail employees and 14 managerial employees²² whose employment terminated during the three-year statute of limitations and at least 30 days prior to the date of removal. This figure is based on a conservative four-hour work day²³ at an estimated average hourly wage of \$10.08 for regular employees and a minimum hourly wage of \$18.95 for managerial employees. Hobby Lobby's calculation is reasonable—and particularly Hobby Lobby's application of a 30-day period—in light of Plaintiffs' claim that Hobby Lobby "declined to pay these wages, even upon a Class Member's termination or resignation from employment." Complaint ¶ 27.

Itemized Wage Statement Claim

California Labor Code § 226 requires employers to provide complete 33. and accurate wage statements to its employees. Employers are liable to employees for each pay period that they fail to provide compliant wage statements, with a penalty of \$50 for the initial violation and \$100 for each subsequent violation, not to exceed \$4,000 per employee. Cal. Lab. Code § 226. At this juncture Hobby Lobby has not yet been able to determine the precise number of paychecks issued. However, for purposes of estimating this figure very conservatively, Hobby Lobby applied an assumption of a 12-week employment tenure (i.e., six two-week pay periods) to the 2,602 California employees who received paychecks between February 18, 2013 and February 18, 2014.²⁴ Based on a \$50 penalty for the first wage statement violation and a \$100 penalty for all subsequent violations, Hobby

1

2

3

4

5

6

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

SAN FRANCISCO

 $^{^{21}}$ (\$10.08 x 4 hours x 30 days x 525 terminated regular employees)+(\$18.95 x 4 hours x 30 days x 14 terminated managerial employees) = \$666,876.00.

²² See Stephens Decl. ¶ 6.

²³ See id. (providing that retail employees work an average of four days a week, while managerial employees work an average of five days per week)

²⁴ *Id.* ¶ 7.

Lobby estimates this claim could total \$1,431,100.00.²⁵

2 Attorneys' Fees

- 34. Based on the figures above, which represent Hobby Lobby's best assessment of Plaintiffs' claims based on the allegations in the Complaint, the total amount of relief sought by Plaintiffs, exclusive of interest, costs, and attorneys' fees, is approximately \$4,176,267.24. Because the Court is to consider attorneys' fees when assessing whether a complaint meets the amount in controversy requirement (*Goldberg v. C.P.C. Int'l, Inc.*, 678 F.2d 1365, 1367 (9th Cir. 1982)), and because attorneys' fees in a class action case of this size may exceed a third of the class recovery, Hobby Lobby estimates that an additional \$1,378,168.19 is in controversy. Thus, altogether, Plaintiffs have placed \$5,554,435.43 in controversy.
- 35. Although Hobby Lobby denies any liability to Plaintiffs or to the Putative Class and denies that any such class could properly be certified under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, as set forth above, the alleged aggregate amount in controversy in this class action exceeds \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and thereby satisfies the amount in controversy requirement of 28 U.S.C. \$1332(d)(2).

THE OTHER PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REMOVAL ARE SATISFIED

- 36. Hobby Lobby has complied with 28 U.S.C. §§ 1446(a) and (d) and has attached true and correct copies of all of the process, pleadings, or orders on file in state court or served on or by Hobby Lobby in the state court as Exhibit A to the Declaration of Saba S. Shatara.
 - 37. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), a notice of filing of removal (with a

 $^{^{25}}$ (2,602 x \$100 x 6 pay periods) – (\$50 x 2,602) = \$1,431,100.00.

 $^{^{26}}$ (\$497,890.32 + \$746,840.40 + \$416,780.26 + \$416,780.26 + \$666,876.00 + \$1,431,100.00) x 0.33 = \$1,378,168.19.

^{- 15 -}

1	copy of this notice of removal) will be promptly filed with the clerk of the Superior					
2	Court of California, County of Orange, Case No. 30-2014-00705589-CU-OE-CJC					
3	and will promptly be served on Plaintiff's Counsel of Record.					
4	38. By removing this action to this Court, Hobby Lobby does not waive					
5	any defenses, objections or moti	ons available to it under state or federal law. Hobby				
6	Lobby expressly reserves the rig	tht to require that the claims of Plaintiff and all				
7	members of the Putative Class b	e decided on an individual basis.				
8	Based on the foregoing,	because there is complete diversity of citizenship				
9	and because the amount in contr	oversy, exclusive of interest and costs, exceeds				
10	\$5,000,000, this action may be r	emoved to this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331,				
11	1332(d), 1441 and 1453.					
12						
13	D.4. 1. A	Danwan Dinning & Drawii I D				
14	Dated: April 10, 2014	Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP				
15		By: Cheryl D. Orr/SS				
16		Cheryl D. Orr				
17		Philippe A. Lebel Saba S. Shatara				
18		Attorneys for Defendant Hobby Lobby				
19		Stores, Inc.				
20						
21						
22						
23						
24						
25						
26						
27						
28		- 16 -				
Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP	SF01/ 936625.1	* 0				

NOTICE OF REMOVAL AND REMOVAL OF ACTION TO FEDERAL COURT

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

SAN FRANCISCO

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES JUDGES

This case has been assig	gned to District Judge	James V. Selna	and to
	Arthur Nakazato	·	
The case number on all	documents filed with the Cou	rt should read as follows:	
	SACV14-561-JV	S(ANx)	
California the accioner	rder 05-07 of the United States d Magistrate Judge has been de y-related motions should be no	signated to hear discovery	-related
		Clerk, U. S. District Co	urt
April 10, 2014 Date	_	By C. Sawyer Deputy Clerk	
	ATTENTIO	ON	

A copy of this Notice must be served on all parties served with the Summons and Complaint (or, in cases removed from state court, on all parties served with the Notice of Removal) by the party who filed the Complaint (or Notice of Removal).

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

The second		1111
	1110)\Y/
	ノバニ	
April April 1		ii

_
D
DEF 4 × 5
□ 6 ——
_
sity.)
5/3/4/63
Sections:
19 4 30
())
(g))
reas (NO)
rs iff or
6 USC
F ()

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Case Number:

CIVILEOV SHET4 - 561-1

Case 8:14-cv-005611125 STATES DISTRICTED URT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF EACH ORNIA Page ID #:20 CIVIL COVER SHEET

VIII. VENUE: Your answers to the questions below will determine the division of the Court to which this case will most likely be initially assigned. This initial assignment is subject to change, in accordance with the Court's General Orders, upon review by the Court of your Complaint or Notice of Removal.

Question A: Was this case removed from	STATE CASE WAS PENDING IN THE COUNTY OF:			INIT	TAL DIVISION IN CA	ACD IS:		
state court? X Yes No Los Angeles							Western	
If "no, " go to Question B. If "yes," check the		entura, Santa Barbara, or San	Luis Obisp	0		Western		
box to the right that applies, enter the corresponding division in response to	X O	range				Southern		
Question D, below, and skip to Section IX.	R	iverside or San Bernardino					Eastern	
Question B: Is the United States, or one o its agencies or employees, a party to this	f	If the United States, or or	ne of its ag	encies o	r employees, is a party, is i	it:		
action?		A PLAINTIFF? Then check the box below for the county in		A DEFENDANT? Then check the box below for the county is			INITIAL DIVISION IN CACD IS:	
If "no, " go to Question C. If "yes," check the	200000000000000000000000000000000000000	hich the majority of DEFENDANTS os Angeles	reside,		nich the majority of PLAINTIFF s Angeles	o reside.	West	ern
box to the right that applies, enter the corresponding division in response to		entura, Santa Barbara, or San bispo	Luis	1 1	ntura, Santa Barbara, or Sa Dispo	n Luis	West	ern
Question D, below, and skip to Section IX.		range		Ora	ange		South	nern
·	□ R	iverside or San Bernardino		Riv	verside or San Bernardino		Eastern	
		Other		Other			Western	
plaintiffs, defendants, and claims? (Make only one selection per row) Indicate the location in which a majority of plaintiffs reside: Indicate the location in which a majority of defendants reside:		San Luis Obispo Counties			Bernardino Counties	Distric	t of California	□
Indicate the location in which a majority of claims arose:			L					
C.1. Is either of the following true? If so,	check th	e one that applies:	C.2. Is (either o	f the following true? If s	o, check the	one that applies:	
2 or more answers in Column C			. [] 2 or n	nore answers in Column D)		
only 1 answer in Column C and no	answer	s in Column D	only 1 answer in Column D and no answers in Column C					
Your case will initially be assigned to the SOUTHERN DIVISION. Enter "Southern" in response to Question D, below.			Your case will initially be assigned to the EASTERN DIVISION. Enter "Eastern" in response to Question D, below.					
If none applies, answer question C2 to the right.				If none applies, go to the box below.				
		Your case will in WES' Enter "Western" in r	TERN DIVIS	IOÑ.				-
					t			
Question D: Initial Division?					INITIAL DIV	ISION IN CAC	.D	
Enter the initial division determined by Question A, B, or C above:					Sou	uthern		

Case 8:14-cv-00561-175-AN DOCUMENT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA Page ID #:21 CIVIL COVER SHEET

IX(a). IDENTICAL CASES: Has this action been	X NO	YES						
If yes, list case number(s):		MANAGEMENT AND A STATE OF THE S	746-0416-04-04-04-04-04-04-04-04-04-04-04-04-04-					
((b). RELATED CASES: Have any cases been previously filed in this court that are related to the present case? NO YES								
If yes, list case number(s):								
Civil cases are deemed related if a previously filed c	ase and the present case:							
(Check all boxes that apply) A. Arise from the same or closely related transactions, happenings, or events; or								
B. Call for determina	ation of the same or substantially rela	ted or similar questions of law and fac	t; or					
C. For other reasons	would entail substantial duplication	of labor if heard by different judges; o	or					
D. Involve the same	patent, trademark or copyright <u>, and</u>	one of the factors identified above in a	a, b or c also is pres	sent.				
X. SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY (OR SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANT):	erul D. Occ	SS DATE	: 4/10/14					
Notice to Counsel/Parties: The CV-71 (JS-44) Civil Cover other papers as required by law. This form, approved by but is used by the Clerk of the Court for the purpose of sta	Sheet and the information contained he Judicial Conference of the United	States in September 1974, is required	pursuant to Local	Rule 3-1 is not filed				

Key to Statistical codes relating to Social Security Cases:

Nature of Suit Code 861	Abbreviation HIA	Substantive Statement of Cause of Action All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended. Also, include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the program. (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b))
862	BĽ	All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. (30 U.S.C. 923)
863	DIWC	All claims filed by insured workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended; plus all claims filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))
863	DIWW	All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))
864	SSID	All claims for supplemental security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security Act, as amended.
865	RSI	All claims for retirement (old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))